

•ing to the Saxon troops, though they must be aware that they are not entitled to the praises bestowed on them, shall remain private, and be sent only to the Marshals commanding the army corps.

(Signed)
NAPOLEON.

Bernadotte's bulletin was printed along with Bonaparte's Order of the Day, a thing quite unparalleled.¹

Though I was much interested in this account of Bonaparte's conduct after the battle of Wagram, yet I was more curious to hear the particulars of Bernadotte's last communication with the Emperor. The Prince informed me that on his return from Plombieres he attended the levee, when the Emperor asked him before every one present, whether he had received any recent news from Sweden. He replied in the affirmative. "What is it?" inquired Napoleon. "Sire, I am informed that your Majesty's *charge d'affaires* at Stockholm opposes my election. It is also reported to those who choose to believe it that your Majesty gives the preference to the King of Denmark." "At these words," continued Bernadotte, "the Emperor affected surprise, which you know he can do very artfully. He assured me it was impossible, and then turned the conversation to another subject.

"I know not what to think of his conduct in this affair. I am aware he does not like me; but the interests of his policy may render him favorable to Sweden. Considering the present greatness and power of France, I conceived it to be my duty to make every personal sacrifice. But I swear to Heaven that I will never commit the honor of Sweden. He, however, expressed himself in the best possible terms in speaking of Charles XIII. and me. He at first started no obstacle to my acceptance of the succession to the throne of Sweden, and he ordered the official announcement of my election to be immediately inserted in the *Moniteur*. Ten days elapsed without the Emperor's saying a word to me about my departure. As I was anxious to be off, and all my preparations were made, I determined to go and ask him for the letters-

¹ For Savary's version of the difference which arose between Bonaparte and Bermulottc at Wagram, together with some interesting anecdotes connected with the battle, the reader is referred to the conclusion of the present chapter.